

R E M A R K S

The specification has been amended. The amendment on page 110 of the specification is supported by the description on page 5, line 14 and by the description on page 219, line 17.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claim 3 has been amended. The amendment to claim 3 is supported by the description on page 5, line 14 and by the description on page 110, second line from the bottom.

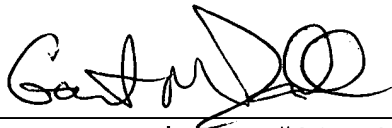
Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
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